

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 10 to 12 and 16 and 17 and add the following new claims 21 to 24 as follows:

Claims 1 to 9 (canceled).

10(currently amended). A method of preserving a perishable cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation, said method comprising the step of adding bioactive glass particles having particles sizes (d₅₀) less than or equal to 5 µm to said preparation, so that said preparation contains an effective amount of said bioactive glass particles for antibacterial action up to 7 percent by weight after the adding.

11(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said preparation contains from 0.1 to 5 up to 10 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles after the adding.

12(currently amended). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said bioactive glass particles have particle sizes (d₅₀) less than or equal to 2-10-µm and said preparation contains up to 3 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles after the adding.

13(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said

bioactive glass particles contain at least 2 percent by weight phosphorous oxide, but do not contain or release at least one toxic metal cation.

14(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 13, wherein said at least one toxic metal cation is selected from the group consisting of Ag^+ , Cu^{+2} , Cu^+ and Zn^{+2} .

15(previously presented). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain from 40 to 60 percent by weight of SiO_2 , from 10 to 30 percent by weight CaO , from 10 to 35 percent by weight of Na_2O , from 2 to 8 percent by weight of P_2O_5 , from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF_2 , from 0 to 10 percent by weight of B_2O_3 , from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K_2O and 0 to 5 percent by weight of MgO .

16(currently amended). A cosmetic preparation ~~with alcohol content insufficient for preservation, said cosmetic preparation comprising up to 10 percent by weight of~~ bioactive glass particles having particles sizes (d_{50}) less than or equal to 400 μm and a liquid;

wherein said bioactive glass particles are present in an amount sufficient to act as a preservative from bacterial action and alcohol is not present, at least in an amount sufficient to provide preservative action; and

wherein said bioactive glass particles have a refractive index that is close enough to that of said liquid so that said bioactive glass particles are substantially

invisible to an observer and thus do not affect preparation appearance.

17(currently amended). The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles have a particle size (d_{50}) of less than or equal to 10 or 5 μm .

18(previously presented). The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain at least 2 percent by weight phosphorous oxide

19(previously presented). The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 18, wherein said bioactive glass particles do not contain or release at least one toxic metal cation.

20(previously presented). The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain from 40 to 60 percent by weight of SiO_2 , from 10 to 30 percent by weight CaO , from 10 to 35 percent by weight of Na_2O , from 2 to 8 percent by weight of P_2O_5 , from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF_2 , from 0 to 10 percent by weight of B_2O_3 , from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K_2O and 0 to 5 percent by weight of MgO .

21(new). A cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparation that comes into contact with skin, said preparation comprising up to 7 percent by weight of bioactive glass

particles;

wherein said bioactive glass particles are present in an amount sufficient to act as a preservative from bacterial action and no organic chemical preservative compounds are present; and

wherein said bioactive glass particles have particles sizes (d_{50}) less than or equal to 5 μm .

22(new). The preparation as defined in claim 21, containing up to 5 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles, and wherein said particle sizes (d_{50}) of said bioactive glass particles are less than or equal to 2 μm .

23(new). The preparation as defined in claim 21, containing up to 3 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles.

24(new). The preparation as defined in claim 21, consisting of a cosmetic cream for application to the skin, a cosmetic lotion for application to the skin, a lipstick or a make-up composition.